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Διὰ τὰ ὁμοία νοῦσος γίγεται, καὶ διὰ τὰ ὁμοία προσφερόμενα ἐκ
νοσούντων ὑγιαίνονται, . . . διὰ τὸ ἐμέειν ἔμμετος παύεται.

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Similia Similibus Curantur.

HAHNEMANN.

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nous inunctions on the protruding vertebræ, which inflamed a second time and produced in consequence of it a paralysis of the lower extremities; sensibility was again lost and continued spasmodic stretchings of the muscles and twitches now and then set in. Stool and urine passed involuntarily. Dyspepsia, evening and night fever, sleeplessness and great morosity was present. Against this severe degree of spondylo-myelitis we again recommended Phosphorus and absolute rest. After four weeks steady use the worst symptoms were again conquered, but the paralysis with its sequels remained in spite of Merc., Plumb., Nux. and Strychnine, and the cold douche; inductive electricity reduced the anæsthesia and the spasmodic stretchings. During that time softening of the exudation set in and an abscess formed, Silicea 6 reduced the abscess, and resorption seemed to be going on. With the softening of the exudation sensation returned more and more in the lower extremities. When after some time the abscess became more tense and larger, we kept on with Silicea and a roborating diet and sent our little patient in the country, where voluntary motion gradually returned. After the abscess opened, discharging good laudable pus, motion became more free. A diarrhœa setting in at the time, reducing his strength with increasing emaciation, was stopped by Phosphor and strengthening food. Now the boy is able to walk again and begins to look hale and hearty. Thus we can show, that even high grades of myelitis pass off under suitable treatment.

Absolute rest is unconditionally necessary for the cure of spondylitis. Most suitable is a position on the stomach with extended extremities and the head raised; for we have too often seen cases, where, if absolute rest was neglected, the spondylitis renewed itself over and over and increased in dimensions.

Spondylitis may end fatally in hereditary tuberculous disposition or when the exudation takes on a tubercular character. The inflammations renew themselves frequently, evening and night fevers set in with profuse sweats, emaciation, paleness of the skin and exhausting diarrhœas. The abscesses discharge an ichorous foul-smelling fluid, decubitus sets in and the patients die in consequence of the tuberculous caries of the vertebræ.

But if we succeed to act on the tuberculous disposition at the very beginning of the inflammation, our remedies, as Phos., Calc-c., Natr-mur., Silic., Sulph., in connection with a roborating diet and country air may yet change the constitutional relations, and render a cure possible. We have also seen sometimes good effects from Codliver oil. Sea-bathing and chalybeate springs have also done good services.

ARTICLE LX.—*On the True Principle of Treatment in Joint Diseases.* By CHARLES F. TAYLOR, M. D. of New-York.

IN the management of all diseases of the joints, it is only necessary to possess true views of their pathology in order to have the key to their treatment. The true articular disease is always inflammatory, and in most, if not in all cases has a traumatic origin. Out of 50 cases of disease of the spine 26 were traced directly to an injury. As in the majority of these cases the disease had existed for years, and as the disease must exist for a considerable time before a deformity appears, thus disconnecting the deformity by a long interval from its cause, it is only strange that so many were traceable to their traumatic origin.

It is the same with disease of the hip joint. Out of 26 cases 12 were traced directly to an injury. Another interesting fact tells strongly on the same side. In 27 out of 44 cases it was the right hip which was affected; and when it is not the right hip we generally have a special reason for it in an accidental injury to the left. Children as well as adults are in the habit of putting the right foot forward in any leap, slip or struggle, so that the heavy blow or concussion almost invariably falls on the right leg, and through that on the right hip.

These joint diseases being then mostly, or perhaps wholly, caused by injuries—though, of course, more easily produced in strumous constitutions—and moreover, purely inflammatory in their *first* stages, there remains to be applied the one all-important indication covering all inflammations everywhere, viz.—*rest*. Give any inflamed organ, wherever situated, absolute *rest*, and it will recover, unless the vice of constitution be too great. But it is astonishing what an amount of recupera-

tive power there may be even in a depraved constitution, if we give the organ in a state of acute inflammation absolute rest.

I remember hearing an eminent surgeon at a medical convention—they were discussing cystitis—say, “If ever I am attacked with inflammation of the bladder I hope some one will have sense enough to puncture it, so that my poor bladder may have rest.” Anything is safer than the constant effort of an inflamed organ. The modern or what is called by a late writer in Paris the “American method” of securing *rest* to an injured and inflamed articulation by mechanical means, responds directly to the indications of those cases. Caries and suppuration are the effects of unarrested inflammations. These inflammations should not be allowed to proceed so far. Out of one hundred and eighty-three private cases *only two* passed into the suppurative stage. To allow a case of disease of the spine or hip joint to pass on beyond the period of simple inflammation when the disease can be arrested as easily as inflammation can be arrested in any other part, is a plain neglect of duty to the patient. To be sure, it is not always easy to contrive the mechanical means, nor to properly apply them so as fully to realize the rest to the inflamed joint we seek; but so much at least should be attempted; and if possessed with earnestness, and with a full realization of the true pathology of such cases, and the benefit to be secured to the patient by it, no one ought to fail of making an effort in the right direction. And as to mechanical appliances, better trust to his own clear conception of the case, and the means to accomplish the result, than to depend on ignorant mechanics, who will be apt to confuse and thwart the first endeavors of the surgeon. An ingenious surgeon can whittle with his pocket-knife from a fence rail, if he clearly comprehends what he wants, a better hip-joint splint or spinal instrument than nine-tenths of those for sale in the shops.

But, whatever the appliance employed, that is best which actually gives the completest rest to the inflamed organ, and keeps that rest steadily and undisturbed for the longest time. But as the best appliances are the results of the clearest conception of the true nature of the disease, these appliances become very important considerations.

ARTICLE LXI.—*Original Report of the Children's Hospital, Five Points House of Industry.* B. F. Joslin, M.D., H. C. Houghton, M.D., Attending Physicians; St. Clair Smith, M.D., Resident Physician.—Report from March 1st, 1869, to March 1st, 1870.

WE close the old year with greatly increased accommodations. For several years past the northern room of the sixth floor has been "Our Hospital," 25 or 30 patients have been our constant number, far too many for the space at our command; but it was difficult to refuse admission where the necessity of the patients was great. The physicians have had great anxiety from the crowded state of the room, but have had cause for thankfulness that their success in treating severe disease has been exceedingly good. We have in former reports alluded to the great necessity for classification of patients especially for the isolation of contagious diseases. These matters can now be much more satisfactorily attended to.

In our present quarters comprising the whole sixth story of the original building of the Five Points House of Industry there is considerably more than three times the space formerly occupied, including three fine wards, a room for eating, for children who are able to be out of bed—a small room for kitchen with gas-stove and another small room for clothes and other purposes. The new rooms contain 30 new iron bedsteads with new mattresses. The old room now used for fever patients at present contains but 8 beds. This number can be increased somewhat with safety. During school hours our convalescent patients can have the use of the play-room in the new building immediately adjoining our hospital, a room containing 4200 square feet.

It is a cause for congratulation that no case of varioloid has occurred in the house during the present serious epidemic. Vaccination of the inmates as well as of the "outsiders" has been attended to, and to this we attribute in great degree our immunity. Very few communities are exposed in so great a degree as ours. The "out-siders" coming daily to school form a constant communication with the most unfavorable part of the outer world.

